

**ARCHIVES**  
**MS**  
**3470**

**Knight, Joseph, 1772 - 1847**

**Reminiscences, [n. d.]**

1<sup>st</sup>  
From thence he went to the hill where he was informed the Record was  
and found no trouble for it appeared plain as tho he was acquainted  
with the place it was so plain in the vision that he had of the place  
he went and found the place and opened it and found a stone box  
he uncovered it and found the Book and took it out and laid down by  
his side and that he would cover the <sup>place</sup> over again thinking there  
might be something else here But he was told to take the Book and  
go right a way and after he had covered the place he turned round  
to take <sup>the</sup> Book and it was not there and he was astonished that the Book  
was gone he that he would look in the place again and see if it had not  
got back again he had heard People tell of such things and he  
opened the Box and behold the Book was ~~there~~ there he took hold of  
it to take it out again and behold he could not stir the Book any  
more then he could the mountain he exclaimed why cant I stir  
this Book and he was answered you have not done vite you should  
have took the Book and gone right away you cant have it now  
Joseph says when can I have it the answer was the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of September  
next if you Bring the right person with you Joseph says who is  
the right person the answer was your oldest Brother But before  
September came his oldest Brother Died then he was disappointed  
and did not know what to do But when the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of September  
came he went to the place and the personage appeared and told  
him he could not have it now But the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of September  
next he vite have the Book if he Brot with him the right  
person Joseph says who is the right person the answer was you  
will know then he looked in his glass and found it was Emma  
Hale daughter of old Mr. Hall of Pennsylvania a girl  
that he had seen before for he had Bin down there before  
with me

Joseph then went to Mr Stowel <sup>2nd</sup> where he had lived sometime before  
But Mr Stowel could not pay him money for his work very well and  
he came to me perhaps in November and worked for me until about  
the time that he was married which I think was in February and  
I paid him the money and I furnished him with a horse and cutter  
to go and see his girl down to Mr Hails and soon after this he was  
married and Mr Stowel moved him and his wife to his father's in  
Delmar Ontario County nothing material took place until toward  
fall the fore part of September I went to Rochester on Business  
and returned by Delmar to be there about the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September  
I was there several days I will say there a man near By the name  
Samuel Lawrence he was a Quaker and he had Bin to the hill and  
knew about the things in the hill and he was trying to obtain them  
he had talked with me and told me the conversation he had with the  
personage which told him if he would do right according to the  
will of God he might obtain the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September next and  
if not he never would have them. Now Joseph <sup>was</sup> some afraid of  
him that he might be a trouble to him he therefore first his  
father up to James as he called him near night to see if there was  
any signs of his going away that night he told his father to stay  
till near dark and if he saw any signs of his going you tell him  
if I find him there I will thrash the stumps with him. so the  
old man came a way and saw no thing like it. This is to show  
the troubles he had from time to time to obtain the plates  
so that night we all went to bed and in the morning I got up  
and my horse and carriage was gone but after a while he came  
home and he turned out the horse all come into the house to  
Brack first but no thing said about where they had Bin after Brack  
Joseph called me in to the other Room and he set his foot on the bed  
and leaned his head on his hand and says well I am disappointed well  
says I am sorry well says he I am gratefully disappointed. it is  
ten times better than I expected. then he went on to tell the  
length and width and thickness of the plates



and said he they appear to be <sup>old</sup> gold But he feared to think more of  
the glasses or the rim and thummen then he did of the Plates  
for says he I can see any thing they are Marvellous for they are  
written in Caricters and I want them translated now he was  
commanded not to let no one see those things But a few for witness  
at a given time Now it soon got about that Joseph Smith  
had found the plates and people came in to see them But he  
told them that they could not for he must not show them  
But many insisted and offered money and property to see them  
But for keeping them from the Gospel they persecuted and  
abused them and they were obliged to hide them and they hid  
them under a brick hearth in the west room about this time  
came this Samuel Lawrence and one Berman a great Rodsman  
and wanted to talk with him and he went into the west room  
and they proposed to go shares with him and tried every way  
to bargain with him But could not then Berman took out  
his rods and held them up and they pointed down to the hearth  
where they were hid there says Berman it is under that hearth  
so they had to guard the house until some time in November he obtained  
fifty dollars in money and hired a man to move him and his wife  
to Pennsylvania to his fathers his wife being unwell and wanted  
to go to her fathers he bought a piece of Land of his father  
with a house and Barn on it — here the people began to tease  
him to see the Book and to offer him money and property and they  
browed so hard that he had to hide it in the Mountain —  
He now began to be anxious to get them translated he therefore  
with his wife drew up the Caricters exactly like the ancient  
and sent Martin Harris to see if he could get them translated  
he went to Albany and to Philadelphia and to New York and he found  
men that could translate some of the Caricters in all those places  
Mitchel and Anthony of New York were the most Larded But there  
were some Caricters they could not well understand therefore  
Anthony told him that he thought if he had the original he could  
translate it and he gave a very good price to Joseph



and said if he would send the original<sup>4<sup>th</sup></sup> he would translate it But at  
Last Martin Harris told him that he could not have the original  
for it was Commanded not to be shown and he was mad and  
said what does this mean and he tore the paper that he wrote  
all to pieces and stamped it under his foot and says bring me  
the original or I will not translate it Mr Harris seeing he was  
in a passion he said well I will go home and see and if they  
can be had I will write to you immediately so he came home  
and told how it was and they went to him no more—  
then was fulfilled the 29<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Isaiah Now he King an  
unlearned man did not know what to do then the Lord gave him  
Power to translate himself then were the Learned men confounded  
for he by the means he found with the plates he could translate  
those Characters better than the Learned— Now the way he translated  
was he put the urn and tumbler into his hat and Banked his  
Eyes then he would take a sentence and it would appear in Brit  
Roman Letters then he would tell the writer and he would write it  
then <sup>the next day</sup> the next sentence would come and so on But if it was not writ  
rite it would not go away till it was write so we see it was  
marvelous thus was the book translated— Now when he began to translate  
he was poor and was put to it for provisions and had no one to write for  
him But his wife and his wife's Mother would sometimes write  
a little for him through the winter the Next Spring Oliver Cowdrey  
a young man from palmyra Came to see old Mr Smith Joseph  
father about this work and he sent him down to Pennsylvania  
to see Joseph and satisfy him self so he came down and was soon  
convinced of the truth of the work

the next Spring came Martin Harris <sup>5</sup> Down to Pennsylvania to write for him and he wrote 116 pages of the first part of the Book of Mormon and about this time Martin wanted to go home about some business and he wanted to take the writings with him but Joseph put him off but he urged him by fair promises that he would be careful and he would return it again but he being free with it some person got hold of it and kept it so that he never could obtain it again. therefore Joseph lost his privilege for a while. but after repenting he again received the privilege of translating again. as in Book of Covenants page 163 Now he could not translate but little being poor and nobody to write for him but his wife and she could not do much and take care of her house and he being poor and no means to live but work his wife's father and family were all against him and would not help him he and his wife came up to see me the first of the winter 1828. and told me his case but I was not in easy circumstances and I did not know what it might amount to and my wife and family all against me about helping him but I let him have some little provisions and some few things out of the store a pair of shoes and three dollars in money to help him a little in January his father and Samuel came from Manchester to my house when I was raising a growing Lumber I told him they had traveled far enough I would go with my sled and take them down to morrow I went down and found them well and they were glad to see us we conversed about many things in the morning I gave the old man a half a dollar and Joseph a little money to buy paper to translate I having but little with me. the old gentleman told me to come and see him once in a while as I could I went home followed teaming till the last of March the sleighing being good I told my wife I must go down and see Joseph again why do you go so soon for said she says I come go and she and she went with me next morning we went down and found them well and were glad to see us. Joseph talked with us about his translating and some revelations he had received and from that time my wife began to believe and continued a full believer until she died and that was the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 1831



in the Spring of 1829 Oliver Cowdery a young man from Palmyra went  
to see old Mr Smith about the Book that Joseph had found and he  
told him about it and advised him to go down to Pennsylvania  
and see for him self and to write for Joseph he went down and  
received a Revelation concerning the work and he was convinced  
of the truth of the work and he agreed to write for him till it was done  
Now Joseph and Oliver came up to see me if I could help him to  
some provisions having no way to buy any but I was a Cattlekill But  
when I came home my folks told me what Joseph wanted but I had  
engaged to go to Catskill again the next day and I went again and I bought  
a Barrel of Mackerel and some lined paper for writing and when I came  
home I bought some nine or ten Bushels of grain and five or six  
Bushels of taters and a pound of tea and I went down to see him and they  
were in want Joseph and Oliver were gone to see if they could find  
a place to work for provisions but found none they returned home  
and found me there with provisions and they were glad for they were  
out their families consisted of four Joseph and wife Oliver and his brother  
James then they went to work and had provisions enough to last  
till the translation was done then he agreed with Martin Harris to print  
they therefore agreed with E. Grandin to print five thousand Copies  
which was printed and bound at Palmyra in the Spring of 1830 Now in the  
Spring of 1830 I went with my team and took Joseph out to Manchester  
to his father's where we was on our way he told me that there must be a  
Church formed but did not tell when Now when we got near to his  
father's we saw a man some eighty Rods before us run across the street  
with a bundle in his hand then says Joseph there is Martin going  
across the road with some thing in his hand says I how could you  
know him so far says he I believe it is him and when we came up  
it was Martin with a Bunch of mormon Books he came to us and  
after compliments he says the Books will not sell for no body  
wants them Joseph says I think they will sell well says he I  
want a Commandment why says Joseph fulfill what you have  
got but says he I must have a Commandment Joseph put him  
off but he insisted three or four times he must have a  
Commandment



we went home to his Father and Martin with us Martin stayed at  
his Father and slept in a Bed on the floor with me Martin awoke  
me in the nite and asked me if I felt any thing on the Bed I told  
him no says I Did you yes I felt some thing as Big as a great  
Dog sprang upon my Breast says I was you not mistaken no says he  
it was so I sprang up and felt But I could see nor feel no thing in  
the morning he got up and said he must have a Commandment to  
Joseph and went home and along in the after part of the Day Joseph and  
Oliver received a Commandment which is in Book of Covenants Page 174  
I stayed a few Days waiting for some Books to be Boun? Joseph said there must  
be a Church Biltup I had been there several Days old Mr Smith and  
Martin Harris come forward to be Baptized for the first they found a  
place in a Lot a small stream ran thro and they were Baptized in the  
Evening because of persecution they went forward and was Baptized  
Being the first I saw Baptized in the new and ever lasting Covenant  
I had some thots to go forward But I had not red the Book of mormon  
and I wanted to exman a little more I being a Restorationar and had not  
examined so much as I wanted to But I should a felt Better if I had a  
gone forward But I went home and was Baptized in June with my  
wife and family. there was one thing I will mention that evening  
that old Brother Smith and Martin Harris was Baptized Joseph was  
fild with the Spirit to a grate degree to see his Father and Mr Harris  
that he had bin with so much he Bostout with great and Joy and  
pramed as tho the world could not hold him he went out into the  
Lot and appeared to want to get out of pite of every Body and  
would sob and Crie and pramed to be so full that he could not live  
Oliver and I went after him and came to him and after awhile  
he came in But he was the most wrought upon that I ever saw any man  
But his Joy pramed to be full I think he saw the grate work he had  
begun and was desiring to carry it out on the sixth Day of April <sup>1830</sup>  
he began the Church with six members and received the following  
Revelation Book of Covenants Page 177 they all knelt down and prayed  
and Joseph gave them instructions how to Bilt up the Church and  
exorted them to be faithfull in all things for this is the work of God

Now after he had set things in order and got a number of mormon  
Books we returned home then in June as I before said I and my family  
and a number more were baptised Joseph being present and confirmed  
them and through that season there were many baptised in many places  
and the Church grew and multiplied but soon after the Church began to  
grow the People began to be angry and to persecute and said them fools  
and said they were deceived. But along towards fall Joseph and Oliver  
Cowdrey and James Whitmore and John Whitmore came from harmony  
in summary to my house on some business and some of the sagabonds  
found they were there and they made a cat's paw of a young fellow by the  
name of Doctor Menton in Chenango County to issue out a warrant  
against Joseph for as they said pretending to go under ground a little  
to cause they found in the York Laws against such things the officer  
came to my house near night and took him I harnessed my horses and  
we all went up to the village but it was so late they could not  
try him that night and it was put off till morning I asked Joseph if  
wanted Counsel he said he that he should. I went that night and  
saw Mr James Davison a man I was acquainted with the next morning  
then gathered a multitude of people that were against him Mr Davison  
said it looked like a squally day he that we had better have John  
Read a pretty good speaker near by. I told them we would not employ  
them both so after a trial all day yesterday at night he was dismissed  
then there was a nother officer was riding and took him on the same case  
down to Broome County Below forth with I hired Boath these Lawyers  
and took them down home with me that night the next day it continued  
all day till midnite but they could find nothing against him therefore  
he was dismissed. Soon after this Joseph left the Poughkeepsie river and  
went to Manchester to his father there about the first of May Sidney  
Brighton came from Ohio to see Joseph and they Boath came down to Broome  
County and Joseph and Sidney went down to harmony to settle some  
business and the Mob found they were gone and they found where they  
were expected back and we found they had a plan laid to take Joseph  
and Sidney and me now Sidney had been at my house several days  
and had preached there several times and he was too smart for  
them therefore they wanted to trouble him and the day we expected them  
I sent my son down to meet them and told them of their plan



and they turned acrost to Shenango point and so went to the Lakes and  
I loaded up what I could carry and went away that nite for the Lakes  
I also took my wife and daughter for we was calculating to go soon for we  
a little before had a revelation to go to Ohio. So the Mob. watched all  
nite at the Bridge. But behold we all came up missing and the poor  
mob lost all their trouble. Now Joseph and I went nite on to Kirtland  
Ohio but did not stay long there for in March we went to the town of ~~Heath~~  
Thompson about twenty miles and in the spring the Colerick Church  
all came on But Joseph remained in Kirtland and Sidney soon came  
to Kirtland now this spring Joseph received anumber of revelations  
one was to purchase a thousand acres of Land which was claimed by  
Leman Copley and not paid for he had a little before come into the  
Church and appeared to be zealous and faithful we all went to work and  
made fence and planted and sowed the fields, about this time we were  
called upon to Consecrate our properties But Brother Copley would not  
Consecrate his property therefore he was cut off from the Church  
then we was commanded to take up our journey to the Regions westward  
to the Borders of the Lamanites and we sold out what we could But  
Copley took the advantage of us and we could not get any thing for  
what we had some - some left Copleys in June and moved our things  
to wellsville on the Ohio river which was about ninety miles then we  
went on Board the steamer the third day of July and we landed  
up on Missouri the 26<sup>th</sup> of the same Month. we found our felues  
among Hyrangers But the people seemed to be friendly with us and  
we found the Country to be beautiful rich and pleasant and we made our  
felues as comfortable as we could and in a few day Joseph and  
Sidney and a number of Brother in came and they looked out and  
entered a considerable of Land for the people to settle on. we found  
it a new Country with some settlers on it there was one Joshua Lewis  
that had come into the Church the winter before he and his wife and they were  
faithful and good to us and took us in to their house my wife being sick as I  
before stated she died the seventh day of August and Joseph and Sidney  
attended her funeral on the Eighth she was buried in the woods a spot  
chosen out by our felues I was a long by where she was buried a few days  
after and I found the hogs had began to root where she was buried I being  
very unwell But I took my ax the next day and went and built a pen  
round it was the last I done for her



Joseph at this time Looked out the <sup>10</sup> Country and found the place for the City and Temple and set a mark, and after giving all other necessary instructions he returned Back for Hirtland Mt. as time came along we often heard from him and received Reassurances. the next year ~~he~~ in 1832 he came again to Missouri and set things in order and bled the Colesmill Church to gather and state them up to Eternal Life and this made some little feeling among others But I think he never ~~Best~~ so that passed off and he returned to Hirtland again and I think he did not come to Missouri the next year for the Mob began to show their Black heads in 1833 But Joseph sent and Counselled during our troubles in Jackson County and after the worst came to the worst that we had better leave the County

22 Sept 1827

Manuscript of the early

History of Joseph Smith

binding of plates, etc.